

Reforma

Environmental mega-study concludes

by Ivan Sosa

(March 31, 2006).- The Milagro campaign that was carried out during March by scientists from 17 countries worldwide to monitor the migration of pollution from the Valley of Mexico concluded this Thursday.

Cesar Reyna, technical secretary for the CAM stated that “the Metropolitan Environmental Commission (CAM) extends its appreciation to scientist Luisa Molina for organizing the world’s biggest environmental campaign ever conducted in order to study air quality”.

During the closing ceremony celebrated at the Universum Museum in *Ciudad Universitaria*, Claudia Sheinbaum, Secretary of the Environment of Mexico City, indicated that the project’s involvement ranged from the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, Mario Molina, to elementary school children who participated in environmental education workshops.

“We seem to think that when the wind blows pollution from the city disappears, but this study is going to help determine where the pollutant emissions from our city go and also find out what toxins we are receiving from other regions”, stated Sheinbaum.

Luisa Molina, scientist from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) said that the data bases gathered during the course of the project will be examined and are expected to provide results in six months.

According to the preliminary data from the *MILAGRO* project the airplanes from NASA used in this mega-study detected that there are pollutants from Asia and Europe that are coming into the Mexico City Metropolitan Area through the Gulf of Mexico.

Scientists and several environmental authorities from the governments of Mexico City and the states of Hidalgo and Mexico attended the closing ceremony.